

Recreation Department
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation

TOWN OF ARLINGTON



Recreation Department

PARK COMMISSIONERS

Shirley Canniff
Leslie Mayer
Jen Rothenberg
Phil Lasker
Scott Walker
Josh Fenollosa - Associate
Sarah Carrier- Associate

MEETING NOTICE

The Park and Recreation Commission
Tuesday, November 14, 2023
7:00 PM – Arlington Community Center (2nd Floor)

AGENDA

- 1) Discussion with Planning Department
 - a) 2025 CPA Applications
 - b) 2025 Town Meeting Article related to Property Ownership Clarifications
- 2) Off Leash Dog Program Discussion of Public Statement from the Park Commission
- 3) Comments and Items for Future Meetings:
 - a) Permitting of alcohol events on property under Park Commission jurisdiction - TBD
 - b) Park Permitting for Arlington Private Preschools – Roger Peirce School- 11/28
 - c) Public Arts Mural Conversation – Cecily Miller -11/28
- 4) Correspondence Received: B. Gravely (Hills Hill), J. Weinberg & M. Bernstein (Off Leash Menotomy Review)
- 5) Minute Approval – 10/24/2023
- 6) New Business
- 7) Public Comment

Community Preservation Act Committee Town of Arlington

CPA Funding – FY2025 Preliminary Application

One (1) electronic copy of the completed application must be submitted to the CPAC **no later than October 6, 2023** in order to be considered for advancement to the final application stage, with the electronic copy sent to JWayman@town.arlington.ma.us.

This PDF form may be completed on a computer using Adobe Reader.

1. General Information

Project Title: McClennen Detention Pond Survey

Applicant/Contact: David Morgan

Organization: Town of Arlington Department of Planning and Community Development

Mailing Address: 730 Mass. Ave

Telephone: 781-316-3012 E-mail: dmorgan@town.arlington.ma.us

2. CPA Eligibility (refer to the chart on page A-3)

CPA Category (select one):

☐ Community Housing ☐ Historic Preservation ☒ Open Space ☐ Recreation

CPA Purpose (select one):

☐ Acquisition ☐ Creation ☒ Preservation ☐ Support ☐ Rehabilitation & Restoration

3. Budget

Amount Requested: 40,000 Total Project Cost: 40,000

Signature  David Morgan
2023.09.28 12:29:46 -04'00' Date 10/06/23

Please complete the project description on the following page

Community Preservation Act Committee Town of Arlington

CPA Funding – FY2025 Preliminary Application

One (1) electronic copy of the completed application must be submitted to the CPAC **no later than October 6, 2023** in order to be considered for advancement to the final application stage, with the electronic copy sent to JWayman@town.arlington.ma.us.

This PDF form may be completed on a computer using [Adobe Reader](#).

1. General Information

Project Title: Public Land Management Plan Addendum

Applicant/Contact: David Morgan

Organization: Town of Arlington Department of Planning and Community Development

Mailing Address: 730 Mass. Ave

Telephone: 781-316-3012 E-mail: dmorgan@town.arlington.ma.us

2. CPA Eligibility (refer to the chart on page A-3)

CPA Category (select one):


☐ Community Housing ☐ Historic Preservation ☒ Open Space ☐ Recreation

CPA Purpose (select one):

☐ Acquisition ☐ Creation ☒ Preservation ☐ Support ☐ Rehabilitation & Restoration

3. Budget

Amount Requested: 25,000 Total Project Cost: 25,000

Signature  David Morgan
2023.09.28 12:29:46 -04'00' Date 09/28/23

Please complete the project description on the following page

Parcel_ID	Site Name	Owner	Manager	Level of Protection	Article 97	Conservation Restriction	GIS_Acres	Change
063.0-0004-0004.A	Cooke's Hollow Park	Town of Arlington	Conservation Commission	Perpetuity	Yes	No	0.55	Town > ConCom
051.0-0003-0002.B	Water Street Conservation Area	Town of Arlington Conservation Commission	Conservation Commission	Perpetuity	Yes	No	0.05	ConCom > Rec
027.0-0003-0021.0	Crosby Playground/ Tennis Court	Town of Arlington		Perpetuity	Yes	No	1.43	Town > Rec
027.0-0003-0020.0	Crosby Playground/ Tennis Court	Town of Arlington		Perpetuity	Yes	No	0.62	Town > Rec
159.0-0004-0011.0	Florence Avenue Park	Town of Arlington	Park and Recreation	Perpetuity	Yes	No	3.88	Town > Rec
130.0-0001-0026.A	Parmenter School Playground	Town of Arlington	Park and Recreation	None	No	No	0.41	Town > Rec
N/A	Mill Brook Conservation Area (Lexington)	Town of Arlington		Perpetuity	Yes	No	2.89	Town > ConCom
149.0-0002-0008.0	Robbins Road Open Area	Town of Arlington	Select Board	None	No	No	0.09	Town > ConCom
052.0-0002-0004.B	Mill Brook Open Area	Town of Arlington Park & Recreation Commission	Park and Recreation	Limited	No	No	0.59	Rec > ConCom
015.0-0001-0005.0	Paper Road off Minuteman Bikeway	Town of Arlington Park & Recreation Commission	Park and Recreation	Limited	No	No	1.87	Rec > ConCom
N/A	Arlington Great Meadows	Town of Arlington	Select Board	Limited	No	No	N/A	Town > ConCom

3

Parcel ID	SiteName	Owner	Manager	ZoneAbbr	ZoneName
108.0-0002-0020.0	Forest Street Conservation Area	Town of Arlington Conservation Commission	Conservation Commission	R1	Single Family
015.0-0001-0005.0	Paper Road off Minuteman Bikeway	Town of Arlington Park	Parks and Recreation Department	R2	Two Family
ROW/BIKEWAY	Minuteman Bikeway	Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority	State	B4	Vehicular Oriented Business
062.0-0001-0003.0	Corner of Mass Ave / Drake Rd	Town of Arlington Park	Parks and Recreation Department	B1	Neighborhood Office
165.0-0006-0004.0	Foot of the Rock	Town of Arlington Park	Parks and Recreation Department	B2	Neighborhood Business
058.0-0007-0008.0	Mill Lane Conservation Area	Town of Arlington	Town Manager Office	R7	Apartments High Density
ROW/BIKEWAY	Minuteman Bikeway	Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority	State	I	Industrial
056.0-0002-0038.0	MWRA Orchard	Massachusetts DCR	State	R2	Two Family
ROW/BIKEWAY	Minuteman Bikeway	Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority	State	I	Industrial
ROW/BIKEWAY	Minuteman Bikeway	Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority	State	R5	Apartments Low Density
054.0-0001-0001.0	Wellington Park	Town of Arlington Park	Parks and Recreation Department	I	Industrial
075.0-0002-0012.0	Medford Boat Club	Medford Boat Club	State	R0	Large Lot Single Family
052.0-0002-0004.B	Mill Brook Open Area	Town of Arlington	Parks and Recreation Department	R1	Single Family
124.0-0001-0006.0	Jason Russell House	Arlington Historical Society	Private	R2	Two Family
ROW/BIKEWAY	Minuteman Bikeway	Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority	State	R2	Two Family
ROW/BIKEWAY	Minuteman Bikeway	Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority	State	R7	Apartments High Density
050.0-0001-0001.C	Buzzell Field Access Path	Town of Arlington Park	Parks and Recreation Department	R6	Apartments Med Density
063.0-0004-0004.A	Cooke's Hollow Park	Town of Arlington	Conservation Commission	R1	Single Family
049.0-0001-0019.B	Mt. Pleasant Cemetery	Town of Arlington	Cemetery	R2	Two Family
046.0-0001-0012.0	Mt. Pleasant Cemetery	Town of Arlington	Cemetery	I	Industrial
032.0-0001-0001.0	Monument Park	Town of Arlington Park	Parks and Recreation Department	R1	Single Family
049.0-0001-0021.0	Mt. Pleasant Cemetery	Town of Arlington	Cemetery	R1	Single Family
ROW/BIKEWAY	Minuteman Bikeway	Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority	State	B5	Central Business
009.0-0002-0002.A	Spy Pond Park	Town of Arlington Park	Parks and Recreation Department	R2	Two Family
011.0-0001-0003.0	The Old Burying Ground Cemetery	Town of Arlington	Cemetery	R1	Single Family
024.0-0003-0001.0	St. Paul's Cemetery	Catholic Cemetery Association	Private	B4	Vehicular Oriented Business
035.0-0004-0013.0	Prince Hall Mystic Cemetery	MASONIC GRAND LODGE CORP	Private	R1	Single Family
034.0-0005-0001.0	Alewife Brook Reservation	Massachusetts DCR	State	R2	Two Family
024.0-0002-0006.0	Waldo Park	Town of Arlington Park	Parks and Recreation Department	R1	Single Family
027.0-0003-0021.0	Crosby Playground / Tennis Court	Town of Arlington	Parks and Recreation Department	R1	Single Family
005.0-0002-0001.0	Hardy School Playground	Town of Arlington School Department	School Department	R2	Two Family
029.0-0001-0008.0	Gibbs School Playground	Town of Arlington School Department	School Department	R1	Single Family
005.0-0002-0001.0	Hardy School Playground	Town of Arlington School Department	School Department	R1	Single Family
122.0-0007-0001.0	Elizabeth Island	Arlington Land Trust	Private	R1	Single Family
014.0-0002-0006.0	Thorndike Field	Town of Arlington Park	Parks and Recreation Department	PUD	Planned Unit Development
013.0-0012-0005.A	Mugar	Mugar Enterprises LLC	Private	R2	Two Family
050.0-0007-0001.0	Uncle Sam Monument	Town Of Arlington Selectmen	Public Works	B5	Central Business
088.0-0001-0013.0	Symmes Woods: Summer Street Woods CR	Arlington 360 LLC	Private	MU	Multi-Use
049.0-0001-0019.B	Mt. Pleasant Cemetery	Town of Arlington	Cemetery	R1	Single Family
050.0-0008-0001.B	Jefferson Cutter House & Whittemore Park	Town of Arlington Redevelopment Board		R1	Single Family

J

DRAFT

Statement from the Park & Recreation Commission (PRC)

In response to the continuing requests to modify and expand the off-leash hours program in Arlington, the Park and Recreation Commission makes the following statement:

The current Off-Leash Rules and Regulations program originated in 2010 through a vote of Town Meeting. In order to establish the program, a number of community engagement meetings were held over multiple years. Compromises from residents both for and against off-leash hours in Arlington were required. The 2010 article to allow off-leash activity in the morning at select park sites under the jurisdiction of the PRC narrowly passed at Town Meeting, and in fact, a similar article to allow off-leash dog activity in town was narrowly defeated just the year before.

The success of the 2010 effort was, in part, thanks to the particular locations that were selected, as well as those that were omitted from the program, and the limitations and restrictions that were documented. At the time, there was much public debate regarding off-leash activity in our town's valued public spaces, and this program was determined to be the best compromise for our community. While not ideal for everyone, it was decided that morning hours in specific locations would provide opportunity and minimize conflict. In addition, the dedicated fenced Thorndike Off-leash Recreation Area (OLRA aka dog park) was created to serve the need that exists beyond the morning hours. The ability to create additional dedicated fenced off-leash spaces exists in the by-law that was enacted.

Many factors contributed to the hours, locations and rules - environmental, public safety, limited recreation properties and established recreation uses, but underlying it all was respect for those on both sides of the issue. We acknowledged and continue to acknowledge that how people recreate is a personal choice that helps to create and enhance our sense of community - with dogs or without, with or without children or for children or individuals alone. We strive to make Arlington's recreational opportunities varied and inclusive for all ages and abilities. It requires compromises and funding and can be a challenge in a densely populated community with diverse interests, finite open spaces and limited budgets.

During much further consideration of recent requests from dog owners and park users, no substantial change in circumstances was brought to our attention that would merit a change in policy. The PRC has voted to stand by the original community decision and has decided not to expand off-leash activity. We will continue to evaluate opportunities to create dedicated fenced off-leash areas.

Hill's Hill

Brittany Gravely <biosphere@public-information.org>

Sun 10/29/2023 12:54 PM

To: Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Park and Recreation Commission,

Thank you for your work to balance recreation and preservation at Hill's Hill. I'm writing to ask the PRC to strictly adhere to the funding conditions for the Hill's Hill project. This means protecting the natural environment while enabling biking.

Public sentiment during CPAC funding debate demonstrated the need to preserve the natural environment at Hill's Hill. That phrase was written in the funding document. Therefore, please locate any constructed areas like Skills or a Pump Track outside the core woods. In addition, bike trails should be constructed with habitat protection as a priority.

Following CPAC's intent will maintain the compromise struck during the funding application and will ensure a successful project.

Thank you for listening,

Brittany Gravely
Boston, MA

6

Request for a moderated meeting to discuss off-leash policy

Judy Weinberg <judylynnweinberg@gmail.com>

Fri 10/27/2023 10:23 PM

To: Jen Rothenberg <jrothenberg@town.arlington.ma.us>; Shirley Canniff <scanniff@town.arlington.ma.us>; plasker@town.arlington.ma.us <plasker@town.arlington.ma.us>; Leslie Mayer <lmayer@town.arlington.ma.us>; Scott Walker <swalker17@hotmail.com>; Scott Walker <Swalker@town.arlington.ma.us>; jfenollosa@town.arlington.ma.us <jfenollosa@town.arlington.ma.us>; scarrier@town.arlington.ma.us <scarrier@town.arlington.ma.us>
Cc: Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission,

I would like to start this letter by stating that the Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park has always made it a policy to not be involved with any issues regarding the off-leash dog policy. This note is coming from me as a dog-owner and frequent park user, and not as a board member of the Friends.

At the Park & Rec Commission meeting this past week on October 24, when the topic of dogs came up for discussion, everyone's hackles went up. There is a large constituency who would like to discuss the policy, specifically adding the woods at Menotomy Rocks Park to the off-leash guidelines. However, it appears that having this as an agenda item at one of your meetings would not be productive.

It was suggested by Ms. Rothenberg that a mediated meeting would be a better way to approach this. I completely agree.

Please let me know how we can work together to make this happen.

Thank you.

Judy Weinberg
39 Venner Road
617-930-8154

FYI I hope all your emails are correct. The P&RC page on the Town website only has 4 Commission members listed, and only 3 email addresses.

7

Leash free hours at Menotomy Rocks Park

Monica Bernstein <dmonicab@gmail.com>

Mon 10/23/2023 10:32 AM

To: Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi Joe,

I am a long time dog walker at MRP. In my experience walking and talking with other walkers the overwhelming majority would prefer to be legal. For many years I was only able to walk off-leash legally in the summer when the sun rose early enough for a 5:30 or 6am walk. That threw me to Whipple Hill, a pleasant enough place but not in my neighborhood. In my view a neighborhood park is a place to meet and socialize with neighbors. I was unable to do that. I could and did of course walk on-leash later in the day, but with young dogs that was not enough. And my friends were all there in the morning.

I understand the suggestion that we need to earn more off leash hours by following the current law. But I would suggest that unless you offer reasonable options you will continue to see owners flaunting the law. In my case it was having to get my son ready and drive him, year round, to a therapeutic school in Acton, not putting me back in Arlington until at least 9am. Other families simply have to get to work, and like me, can only be legal with an early sunrise. There are myriad reasonable reasons a dog owner might not be able to make the current off-leash hours.

Please consider expanding legal off-leash hours.

Sincerely,

Monica Bernstein
Norfolk Road



ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINTUES

October 24, 2023

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order in the main meeting room at the Community Center on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 7:00pm.

Commission Members: Scott Walker, Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Josh Fenollosa and Sarah Carrier. Recreation Director Joe Connelly was also present. Shirley Canniff and Phil Lasker were not in attendance.

Anticipated Speakers: Amy Horton - Bark for Life, Judy Weingberg – Menotomy Gates Project

Preliminary Matter: Scott Walker, Park & Recreation Commission Chair, took formal attendance and welcomed anticipated speakers and members of the public to the Recreation Commission meeting.

Special Event Approval – Bark for Life

Amy Horton was present to answer questions from the Commission about the annual event request.

- Event request submitted by AHS student, Indigo Blankespoor.
- Ms. Rothenberg – Requested information on cost and fundraising. \$10 registration fee per dog. Raised \$7300 last year for American Cancer Society.
- Mr. Connelly – Event has had no issues in the past.
- Mr. Walker – Application states 50 participants. Last year there were 30 participants.
- Ms. Mayer – Advised that dogs were not allowed in the playground area and that off-leash hours on the Arlington side of the Rez end at 9am but continue past 9am on the Lexington side.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the event request, seconded by Ms. Mayer. Approved 3-0. Mr. Connelly will issue the permit.

Film Permitting Policy Review

Mr. Connelly presented an updated policy for review. He noted that the previous policy was over 10 years old and required small modifications. He also stated that the most recent production project was very successful with the participants being very easy to work with and respectful of all rules and conditions.

Ms. Mayer – Requested to have the word “additional” removed from the fees section of the General Guidelines.

Mr. Fenollosa – Recommended adding the link to the Parks and Recreation Commission Rules and Regs.

Ms. Mayer motioned to approve the updated policy as amended, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg. Approved 3-0.

Menotomy Rocks Park Jason Street Access Gates

Mr. Connelly and Ms. Weinberg met at Menotomy Rocks Park with Ornamental Iron Work Inc. to discuss the installation of a pedestrian gate and a double gate for the vehicle entrance. Ms. Weinberg stated that funding will be provided by the FOMRP. Estimated budget is \$5800 for both gates.

- DPW – Existing gate is beyond repair.
- Both gates will be of the same ornamental style. The original installation was done by the same company.
- A 3’ wide gate will be added to the pedestrian entrance.

Mr. Fenollosa – Inquired whether the Historical Commission needed to be consulted. Mr. Connelly stated that the style is identical to the existing gates but would consult with JoAnn Robinson.

Mr. Walker – Advised to ensure ADA compliance.

Ms. Mayer – Supports the vehicle gate but does not support the pedestrian gate.

- Wear and tear from constant opening and closing.
- Additional maintenance would be needed.
- Unwelcoming, “gated community” feel.

Mr. Connelly – Agreeing with Ms. Mayer stated that the Reservoir gates have been repaired four times and the Spy Pond Playgrounds gates twice just from volume of usage.

Ms. Reisberg – Suggested that the park would be safer for children with a gate.

Ms. Rothenberg, Mr. Fenollosa and Mr. Walker – Agreed with Ms. Mayer’s comments about the unwelcoming feeling of an entrance gate. Potential hazards were also identified including sidewalk obstructions from the gate being left open and the constant swinging to open and close. The location of the pedestrian walkway, “pin-style” gates, wood removal and granite posts were also discussed.

Ms. Mayer motioned to approve the replacement of the vehicular gate with ornamental iron pending discussion with the Historical Commission, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg. Approved 3-0.

Comments and Items for Future Meetings –

- Permitting of alcohol for events on property under Park Commission jurisdiction.
- Cecily Miller - murals, TBD in November
- David Morgan and Claire Richter – CPA request, property jurisdiction discussion. Mr. Connelly will forward information to Commission members for review.

Correspondence Received

Emails were received from the following members of the public:

- Beth Melofchik – Off-leash dog times
- Dana Simon – Menotomy Dog Policy
- Amanda Fredo – Off-leash dogs at Parallel Park

Approval of Minutes

- Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the minutes of September 26, 2023, as amended, seconded by Ms. Mayer and approved 3-0.

New Business

Mr. Connelly – CPA has invited the Commission to submit final applications for Menotomy and Courts projects.

Ms. Mayer, also a CPA Committee member - Both projects were determined to be eligible for CPA. CPAC did note a \$1M shortfall in the budget and may require the Commission to prioritize and/or phase the projects. Ms. Mayer advised that state funding would be available toward the end of the year, which could change funding availability.

Mr. Tironi – How much funding was needed for both projects? \$1.9M.

Public Comment –

Ms. Reisberg – Concerns surrounding alcohol permitting policies noting broken glass in the park. Suggested recycling bins and possible fees.

Mr. Tironi – Requested the Commissions support to install signage at McClennan designating “no mow” areas”. All costs will be paid for the Conservation Commission. The signage design will match Hurd Field. The “no mow” policy is needed to protect resting habitats and pollinators. Mr. Tironi will also consult Mr. Connelly about verbiage for signage to be installed at Mt. Gilboa to advise against creating bicycle paths on Conservation land.

Mr. Fenollosa – Requested more details about sign locations and numbers. Mr. Tironi presented diagrams of proposed locations. The Commission agreed that no vote was required and that Mr. Connelly will handle the signage requests administratively.

Ms. Rothenberg requested that FOMRP be reminded that all Spooky Walk signage needs to be removed after the event. Ms. Weinberg stated that she was on the committee and would relay the message to the group. Mr. Connelly will also send a reminder email.

Nancy Knoff – Inquired about the possibility of extending the Wellington Park path to Brattle Street. Ms. Mayer stated that the idea is possible but there is no funding anticipated at this time. Ms. Mayer shared a brief history of architect Mia Lehr’s work in Arlington and the linear park study she conducted around 1974-1976. In recent times the idea of extending Grove to Brattle Streets arose again but there was no funding to support the project. Additionally, the project became a flood control-based project. Ms. Knoff also suggested a pilot program to allow off-leash dogs at the Reservoir (aligning with Lexington) noting that 6-9am was restrictive. She also suggested allowing dogs to be off-leash in the woods at Menotomy Rocks Park. Mr. Connelly stated that by-laws prevent changing the off-leash hours. Mr. Connelly stated that off-leash dog discussions would need to be added as an agenda item to allow both sides to have a voice. The ACO has compiled data and will be making recommendations. Ms. Mayer encouraged discussion to be held through a public meeting process versus continuous small discussions at every PRC meeting. Ms. Rothenberg noted that off-leash dogs is a very contentious topic and recommended hiring a mediator and police presence for a public meeting.

Mr. Connelly presented the following statistics – Arlington offers off-leash dog hours every day between 6-9am at about 15 town parks in addition to the \$250K Thorndike dog park. Research of surrounding towns/cities shows that Arlington offers far more off-leash dog time than other communities.

Mr. Walker concluded the discussion by stating that the Commission would discuss the issue further at a future meeting to determine how to move forward. No votes or decisions would be made without the attendance of the other Commissioners. Ms. Weinberg requested an opportunity to conduct a walk through with Commission members to plead the case of off-leash dog supporters. The Commission uniformly noted that the number of complaints against off-leash dogs was equal to those requesting more hours and additional off-leash locations.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn at 8:15pm, seconded by Mr. Walker. Approved 3-0.

The Arlington Park & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Deanna Stacchi.

11